

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08545 181623Z

73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /075 W

----- 118642

R 181548Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 474

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8545

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, US, UR, NO

SUBJ: SOVIET LNG

REF: A. STATE 138288; B. OSLO 2589

1. NORWEGIAN CHARGE GEORG KRANE REQUESTED URGENT APPOINTMENT TODAY AND PRESENTED THREE QUESTIONS HE STATED NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HOPED TO SEE ANSWERED BEFORE MEETING NORTH STAR GROUP: (1) TO WHAT EXTENT HAS U.S. GOVERNMENT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS PROJECT?; (2) DO U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE ANY OFFICIAL VIEWS REGARDING ACQUISITION OF RIGHTS ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY BY NORTH STAR CONSORTIUM AND, BY EXTENSION, BY SOVIET GOVERNMENT; (3) DOES NORTH STAR DESIRE TO MEET NORWEGIANS REPRESENT WISH (A) TO WORK OUT TERMS OF FIRM AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED BY NORTH STAR WITH SOVIETS OR (B) INTEREST IN EXPLORING POSSIBLE MEANS OF SETTling DETAILS OF AGREEMENT TO BE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES?

2. KRANE STATED THAT UPON REFLECTION NORWEGIANS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO SEEK EXPLANATION FROM SOVIETS UNTIL AFTER "OFFICIAL" VIEWS OF U.S. GOVT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED. HE COMMENTED THAT NORWEGIANS FEAR NORTH STAR GROUP MAY SERVE UNWITTINGLY AS DUPE FOR INTRODUCTION OF RUSSIAN "EXPERTS" INTO NORWEGIAN PROVINCE OF FINNMARK AND THAT ONCE SETTLED THERE IN WHATEVER GUISE RUSSIANS MAY PROVE DIFFICULT TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08545 181623Z

DISLODGE. ACCORDING TO KRANE, NORWEGIANS FIND IT DIFFICULT

TO THINK THAT SOVIET GOVT WOULD CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LGN SHIPPING TERMINAL IN MURMANSK, GIVING KNOW SOVIET SENSITIVITY ABOUT PORT INSTALLATIONS THERE.

3. CONSIDERING POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FUTURE TERMINAL TO BOTH SOVIET AND U.S. GOVTS, KRANE NOTED THAT NORWEGIANS ANTICIPATED THAT IN YEARS AHEAD U.S. MIGHT PRESSURE NORWAY TO ALLOW SOVIET PERSONNEL ACCESS TO ANY LNG INSTALLATIONS ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY (AND KRANE NOTED NORWEGIAN INABILITY TO CONCEIVE THAT SOVIETS WOULD AGREE TO ANY INSTALLATIONS NOT MANNED BY SOVIET CITIZENS). KRANE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY SUCH PRESSURE WOULD PRESENT CONCRETE MILITARY DEFENSE PROBLEMS FOR NORWAY AS WELL AS PUBLIC RELATIONS DIFFICULTIES FOR NORWEGIAN GOVT.

4. COMMENT: NORWEGIANS MAY BE SERIOUSLY DISTURBED ABOUT POSSIBLE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF RUSSIAN INTEREST IN FINN-MARK PROVINCE IN ADDITION TO GENERAL SUSPICION OF NORTH STAR PROPOSALS FOR PIPELINE ACROSS NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. FACT NORWEGIAN CHARGE INSTRUCTED BRING UP THESE QUESTIONS WITH EMBASSY SUGGESTS URGENCY OF CONCERN FELT BY NORWEGIAN GOVT. MELENCAMP

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW08545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MELENCAMP
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730726/aaaaasty.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A. STATE 138288; B. OSLO 2589
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET LNG
TAGS: ENRG, US, UR, NO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005